

**ESRC CASE PhD STUDENTSHIP 2006-2008  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURAL ENGLAND**

**An analysis of partnership approaches to  
achieve strategic marine conservation  
objectives and of the perspectives of different  
actors on such approaches**

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## Introduction

My PhD is co-sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council and Natural England and explores partnership approaches to achieving strategic marine conservation objectives. The aim of the research is to assess different approaches to the creation of partnerships to manage European Marine Sites (EMS) as stipulated by the 1992 Habitats Directive and to investigate the perspectives of different actors on these approaches.

# Research Methodology

- Case studies
- Qualitative Methods
  - Interviews
  - Participant Observation
  - Focus Group
- Analysis

## Preliminary findings

- Overall the vast majority of stake holders were positive about the management schemes and their involvement in the process
- The importance of consultation
- Four key re-occurring themes:
  - Social capital
  - Incorporating local knowledge and expertise
  - Empowering stake holders
  - Enforcement

## **Key points for taking the UK Marine Protected Area network forward**

- Demonstrating to stakeholders that practical actions are being taken on the ground
- Systematically incorporating 'local knowledge' into the decision making process
- Educating the general public about the UK marine environment